THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Linking of North-Eastern states with Bangladesh

2164. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the prospects that will be derived if Agartala, Tripura be linked with Akhaura of Bangladesh by railway line in respect of likely transportation between North-Eastern States and Kolkata *via* Bangladesh;

(b) the steps contemplated by Government on that line; and

(c) other similar measures that Government propose for extension of Railways to ease transportation in the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Survey has been taken up for linking Agartala (India) with Akhaura (Bangladesh). Indian side survey has already been completed.

(c) A number of new line and gauge conversion projects have been taken up in North-Eastern region for rail infrastructure development to meet the demand of traffic.

Linking of ports with freight trains

†2165. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has been contemplating a plan under which all ports could be linked to goods train;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the estimates regarding financial resources of the proposed plan are being made and by when this plan is proposed to be commenced?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.